

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

October 7, 2010

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on September 30, 2010 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending October 6, 2010 in the amount of \$ 242,120.74 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of September 30 – October 6, 2010
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from July 8 – October 4, 2010

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$ 571,892.91 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

Patty Bentley 18 Sanborn Avenue wanted to speak about 2 things. Not the least of which is her name is "Patty." One is about the reconstruction or deconstruction of the sewer lines or catch basins down Park Avenue which everyone on the west end particularly on Sanborn and Park welcome. She has been disappointed at the amount of disruption that has occurred with that and the fact that on Monday she happened to be home and at 9:20 am the door bell rang and she was handed a sheet of paper that told her she would have no water between 7 am until 5 pm the next day. A number of people who live in her area work so they didn't get that notice until late afternoon and in fact that water was off until around 8:30 and 9 o'clock. She would ask that in future projects regardless of where they occur in the City that they have a little more forethought about when water has to be turned off. She said when she returned from a trip to Buffalo on Saturday she had about 4 inches of water standing in her back yard and was lucky that it hadn't been her basement that got flooded. We may be fixing something but we have created some small disaster along the way. Her other comment is about the piece in the paper and she sees on our Agenda there is a resolution and that it is in response reportedly to something **Fred Wachmeister**, a member of the board, suggested. She was actually only privy to that line of correspondence Monday evening. Having read it she understands and they are welcome to do it. The whole purpose of the hearing that is scheduled for November 30th was to elicit public input and response to the prospect of a utility tax. She wants to go on record here as she has gone on record at the school board. She thinks the purpose of any hearing should be educational in nature she is not particularly inclined to support another tax or a different tax. She does think the fiduciary responsibility of the school board is to provide every possible revenue option and to review it and to either accept or reject it. Any of this would have to go before the public for the vote in May regardless so it would be a budget item. The reason that they wanted to have the hearing was so it gave enough time for people to prepare for it, to schedule for it and schedule it prior to the budget process that will begin in late January. So the timing was such that November 30th was when they scheduled the hearing. This is not the first time that the school board has considered a utility tax by any means. **Mary Huckeba** actually very kindly looked up the past records and no less than 8 times since 1974 has the school board looked at the possibility of a utility tax. In fact one of the sweet ironies is that a former dissenter and opposer to a utility tax went on to become the Superintendent of Schools in Peekskill where last year they initiated a utility tax. She simply wants to assure not only the **Council** she feels that this resolution this evening and a vote on it is precipitous and premature. It in effect it may send a message from the **Council** but it also blunts the opportunity for people to do fact finding and information gathering. She said they will do what they are going to do and she

certainly can respect that but she thinks that she wants to be absolutely clear so that each **Councilor** there understands this is not a done deal, there is not a preordained decision on this, the hearing is just that it is a public hearing for information. She hopes that clarifies some people's opinion or concerns on what is going to happen on November 30th and she hopes they will see a big turn out for that.

Councilor Jackson asked if it is the intention of the school board to put this up as a separate item for a vote when the budget is up for vote or is it going to be inside the budget, because she alluded to the fact that is going to be a vote able item in May.

Patty Bentley responded that the budget, as has been pointed out, and she did hand out to the **Council** the piece that **Superintendent Jake Short**, sent to **Joe LoTempio** from the Press Republican in response to his query. She said **Jake** is down in Washington for the peer evaluation review committee so he didn't get the request until 9 and he knows it went in after the deadline. Her understanding is that they are having this hearing first so there is not any real discussion about what would happen except that if they decided that a utility tax was something that the school board wanted to pursue they would have to put it on a referendum. And she believes it would be separate from the actual school budget although if they decided to go that route they would have to have alternative budgets based on the property taxes and the utility tax. Her personal opinion while nobody likes property taxes the fact remains that this school board has both listened to people; they had budget hearings last spring when the budget was looking very critical and a number of people asked them to preserve several different programs, the odyssey program, the guided study hall, the language programs, many of their athletic programs and she sees that many people are talking that this school rate is so high. It is in part because of the kinds of programs that students have asked for and residents of the City want and why they come and live here. It is a very delicate balance to see that they offer the programs that are useful and warranted and keep the tax rate basically at a good level. Remember they had no tax rate at all in the two years prior to this and this year it is a relatively modest 2.4 which they made several cuts this year, they had some retirements, she doubts seriously that they will be able to get through several more years unless the feds and state come back with some reasonable and timely funding. The race to the top is great but when it comes in October after you have started a school year it is hard to respond to it. She asked **Councilor Jackson** if that answered his question and he responded yes.

Stuart Voss 38 Hillcrest Avenue in 2001 a Pedestrian/Bicycling committee was formed and operated for 4 years. Several of those initiatives that a group of citizens across the City worked for very hard have really born fruition. He thinks it is important for this **Council** and the citizens to recognize that. Before 2001 there were hardly any crosswalks for pedestrians between inner street intersections and the committee outlined what they thought were 20 or so of those cross walks at key places. He would like to commend the **City Engineer** and his department for taking that and carrying it so much further adding cross walks and particularly adding signs which in 2001 they were told by that departments predecessor that it was impractical and wouldn't work. He thinks **City Engineer Kevin Farrington** has demonstrated that it has been very profitable by putting up those all over the city it has been very useful for the pedestrians. He thinks pedestrians and motorists have learned to accommodate one another and respond to one another and for anyone who travels up Rugar Street yes at the wrong time it is difficult but it is much better to having students crossing at those 6 crosswalks then just nilly willy any place they want. Secondly, the committee made a major effort

particularly with Councilor Stewart and Hicks to try to explore the possibilities of a recreation bicycling path on the south side of the river. Because that area of the City had been somewhat neglected at that point. As it has turned out the efforts initially in 2003 and 2004 have been carried on by the succeeding **Council** and at their decision and he quite understands why given the problem of getting rights of way in some of the property on the south side of the river, the north side was practical. His hope is that once this bike path and recreation path proves successful as he is sure it will, that this **Council** or a future **Council** will move forward and see about the south side of the City because there is so many beautiful areas that this committee marked out all the way past interstate 87 on the south side which you can't really see from the north side. The committee also tried to prepare, probably ahead of its time unfortunately, a bike route in many places across the city so citizens could ride successfully with bike lanes commuting from one important part of the city to another. He thinks now with the emphasis on curbing obesity and getting exercise the recent comments by the **Mayor** and the **City Engineer** about Rugar Street which the Bicycling/Pedestrian committee always thought was the reality which is as soon as you put those lines down cars feel more comfortable because they know the bicyclers have a lane, bicyclers feel more comfortable, cars slow down and you get a much better flow of traffic. He hopes the **Council** will consider extending those up Rugar Street. The plan is still there he has it in his own files of the different routes they mapped out. He thinks even though the **Council** in 2004 in the fall was not ready unfortunately in his opinion to endorse such a move he thinks the preceding years, the movement throughout the country, the demonstration on Rugar Street clearly shows that bike lanes not only can provide safety, they can provide break down lanes, they can provide access areas during snow removal which normally wouldn't be covered and he hopes the **Council** will consider extending what appears to be a successfully first run on Rugar Street. He really appreciates **Kevin Farrington's** taking the initiative there in doing that his actions have demonstrated the utility of that so he hopes the **Council** will think about taking these measures and initiatives and expanding access for pedestrians and bicycling. One negative note he has noticed, by the way before he served on the bicycling/pedestrian committee he didn't ride his bike very much at all he walked to work now he sees the utility of using the bike, but one thing he has noticed moving around the city is that many bicyclists totally disobey the rules of the road. He really thinks the Police Chief and the Police Department really needs to crack down on bicyclists. When you see bicyclists coming up Brinkerhoff the wrong way that should be ticketed just like anybody else. When they are on sidewalks they must be have as pedestrians behave not as motorists behave. So when they come to an intersection they can't just fly through as one foreign student did in front of him on Hillcrest and he could hardly even see and fortunately stopped in time and he flew right past. An accident is waiting to happen and he thinks we saw tragically out at Exit 37 another case of where a bicyclist didn't see themselves as pedestrians on the sidewalk and didn't behave accordingly. He does hope that the **City Police** and the **Mayor** in particular should address this problem because accidents are waiting to happen. When you are on the road as a bicyclist you should obey the rules of the road. If it is a question of education perhaps the Police Department can go in to the schools.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor be authorized to sign a Grant Disbursement Agreement (Project #W796) with Empire State

Development Corporation for a \$2.5 million dollar grant to be used to make repairs and improvements to the former Imperial Wallpaper Plant.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
Discussion:

Councilor Kelly asked what does the public get for its \$2.5 million he knows that area is being developed and he assumes there will be jobs there, is that it?

Mayor Kasprzak said no we will have substantial increase to power usage. For that \$2.5 million this is being utilized for a number of businesses and their spaces. We have another one coming in that he and **Councilor Carpenter** have been talking about and one of their major improvements is going to be is to make sure they receive the power that they have requested which is obviously revenue as well as the jobs that **Councilor Kelly** mentioned.

Councilor Carpenter mentioned also taxation will increase due to increased value of the property.

Mayor Kasprzak that is right a lot of times that gets lost. Here is a couple million dollars worth of a grant and we really don't hear what the benefits are and we all work hard to receive those grants but he has always been suspect as to what the results are.

Councilor Kelly said it sounds like in this case with increased jobs, increased tax revenue for the city, and increased revenue for MLD its going to be a good pay off.

Mayor Kasprzak he is not sure if the pay off is what they all would hope but it is going to be very positive versus doing nothing in that area.

Corporation Counsel John Clute wanted to add that he has had spoken to the majority owner actually 80% owner of the company that owns the Imperial property and he has looked at what their budgets are for the overall improvement plan for this property and the amount of money they have spent to date and he said it is roughly and \$8 to \$10 million dollar overall improvement project for this property. In this particular case there is a fairly large private investment that has preceded this Grant.

Councilor Calnon one of the other benefits is there is substantial infrastructure improvements as well. The rail lines are going to be upgraded through there which is another aspect of this and is important.

Mayor Kasprzak which those will improve and increase satellite businesses usage from Nova Bus to Bombardier because of those rail improvements.

Councilor Calnon said it is part of a much larger development of rail in the area.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. Whereas, The City of Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department, hereafter referred to as PMLD, signed its first long term contract for inexpensive electricity in 1956, and has operated the utility continuously for 54 years;

Whereas, in that 54 years, PMLD has only raised rates to pay for increased operating costs and capital improvements to the electric system;

Whereas, PMLD has not raised rates or taxes for any unrelated costs;

Whereas, the City of Plattsburgh School Board has recently been discussing levying a 3% tax on the residential customers of PMLD;

Whereas, the most recent tax rate levied by the Plattsburgh City School District was \$20.96/\$1,000 of assessed value and the most recent tax rate levied by the Plattsburgh City Council was \$10.20/\$1,000 of assessed value;

Whereas, the Plattsburgh City School District's rate of \$20.96/\$1,000 is already supplemented by the New York State "STAR" exemption program, which is a State Program that is NOT funded in perpetuity;

Whereas, it was suggested in correspondence received by the Plattsburgh City Council members from Plattsburgh City School Board member Fred Wachtmeister Jr. that "the Plattsburgh City Council pass a resolution expressing its opinion on a proposed 3% levy on City resident electric bills by the Plattsburgh City School District";

Whereas, the Mayor and Common Council have decided to act upon Mr. Wachtmeister's suggestion, so;

Therefore Be it Resolved that on October 7, 2010 the Plattsburgh City Council voted in favor (and if applicable, unanimously) in opposition to the Plattsburgh City School District's proposed 3% levy on any applicable residential utility bill.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Discussion:

Councilor Carpenter would like to commend Patty Bentley for coming and talking to the Council. He wishes there were a lot more conversation like that between the Council and the school district, the Council and the county and the Council and the town. He believes those kind of conversations can definitely lead to very positive results. He has been down to the school district to talk to them at the school board. Last time he went was to talk about the bridge they haven't really done much about it yet but it is important for us to continue those conversations so he thanked Patty Bentley for coming.

Councilor Rabideau said in today's paper the Mayor had mentioned that in his observation he had seen a strong majority of people in opposition of this tax and he has a sheet drawn up in the last 2 days and the fact he has been going door to door and since last week, last weekend and first part of this week not for the purpose of the utility tax and if people did want to talk he talked to them, some people did not have time to talk and some were not home. He did find also a strong opposition to this utility tax. It is just perceived as another tax to put on the tax payer. His impression is that the school board members will be hearing from the public, he is sure of that based on what he is hearing. He feels they have worked hard for the last 4 years stabilizing our city taxes and not to repeat himself, because he has mentioned this before but he will, they've made very difficult decisions regarding the city spending and city personnel made very difficult cuts and this utility tax that is being considered is kind of an insult to them. To say to them that this isn't within the scope of our responsibility to even insinuate that after they have made these hard choices. It is their lighting department; we are the directors of the board. We serve not only as Councilors but Board of Directors of the lighting department. The lighting department is an attraction for this city and they have kept the rates low and they've made hard decisions and tough decisions as he just said and to put a utility tax on our department that isn't going back to transformers it isn't going to be used to keep personnel even though we had to cut personnel, it isn't going to be used for power lines, it isn't going to be used to keep up their jewel to the city which for years they considered the lighting department it is not going back in to our department. And to say that's not within the scope that they should not be talking or they shouldn't be upset with this utility tax being considered or even being thought of as feasible. He thinks they have a right to voice their opinion and they also have a right to mention what they are hearing and he is hearing that the school board will hear from the public. He doesn't know what they will do after they hear from the public and he doesn't know what their final decision will be after they hear from the public because he has heard some doubtful answers on some of what the decision will be no matter what is said at the hearing. But he is sure they are going to hear the opposition.

Councilor Calnon said there are a couple of points he wants to make. One of them is that Mr. Short indicates in his response that commenting on the actions of another municipal organization is outside their scope of responsibilities. They may have heard him speak sometimes about their relationship with the Town of Plattsburgh for example. There is a difference in talking about the town, or talking about the county or talking about the school district. **Councilor Rabideau** was on the track to that. It is exactly the same tax payers, it's the same foot print, and it is exactly the same people. So when a tax bill is received the person who is most accessible is the one who gets to hear a person's complaint about it. And frankly as he indicated in his correspondence to the board often that is them.

Councilor Rabideau and other candidates, the **Mayor** mentioned it, as they approach their election they are out on the street meeting with people and if that's their concern they have an obligation to transmit it not to ignore it and so he thinks they really do have a moral obligation to do something about this. The other thing that is out there that he thinks is pretty important is a public hearing is not the only way that a board gets input. They can get input from a whole host of other organizations. Whether they are other governments, whether they are not for profits or they are advisory boards or a just a group of people who sat around one day and thought about something. It doesn't have to come out at a public hearing it can come out under any circumstances and this is one. He also has heard from a number of people who are very concerned about the tax. He actually heard from someone the other day who was in favor of it he was a landlord and he said good then my tenants will have to pay it and he asked him if he was going to lower their rents to match that and he said of course not. He

thinks there are some real issues here that really need to be investigated. The other thing that he thinks happens is that when you see, **Councilor Rabideau** mentioned that there was some perception among some of the people that he talked to that it really didn't matter what they said at the public hearing the school board was going to do what it wanted to do, that is unfair to the good members of the school board, but, he has to tell them that is the perception that has been voiced to him a number of times. It is really unfair to the school board members to say that but if that is a perception then he thinks the fact is that if they take a stand, particularly if they take a stand in opposition to this tax, then some of them might want to go to the public hearing that had really felt why should they, they have no friends they aren't going to pay attention to me, he said they have at least one friend and that is him and that is **Councilor Rabideau** and a few other folks around the table. He thinks that in fact passing a resolution tonight may very well actually promote participation in the public hearing. He thinks that is an important thing to do. He is in favor of doing this because he thinks it is to our shared constituents and that it is the something that will keep the dialogue going to the point where it will improve the level of communication both to this **Council** and to the school board.

Councilor Carpenter he just wanted to point out one more thing, they just passed a resolution a minute ago for a grant for Imperial which will increase the assessed value of that property when the work is done which means that the city will see an increase in taxation but the school district will see double the increase in taxation that they will from these kind of developments. In his opinion this is the direction that they and the school board and all entities should be working toward.

Councilor Jackson as President of the Board of MLD and as **Councilor Rabideau** said as hard as they have worked to turn that utility around in the last 3 years this is very disconcerting to him he is a little surprised that to quote this "it is outside our scope of responsibility." MLD is their responsibility, the rate payers are their responsibility what they provide for services is important and this money is not going to flow back to the MLD. He thinks between **Councilor Rabideau** and **Councilor Calnon** everything has been said that he wanted to say he doesn't want to repeat it but he thinks it is appropriate and since they were invited to and asked to adopt a resolution before the November election. He thinks they are doing what they were asked to do.

Mayor Kasprzak said he is always the target for almost any special interest group he always has been even when he was on the **Council**. Some of it is deserved, he thinks much of it isn't and he thinks much of the criticism because he doesn't agree with people isn't deserved either. He looks at this as a very simple issue. This **Council**, department heads and cooperating unions have worked together for 3 years, he has worked with **Councilor Valentine** and **Councilor Rabideau** for 4 and they have stepped up and they have all made some very difficult changes to attempt to make this community more affordable and it has not been enjoyable for any of them. As a matter of fact he thinks there are some scars on some of the issues that resulted in that they disagreed around the table he can think of 2 or 3 and that affected a lot of their employees and it affected the community to some degree. He is not ashamed to admit that at times he is that target because he believes and he has said this and they are all so tired of hearing it that his firm belief since he started in politics in 1989 was to represent the majority of the constituents not only in the ward he represented but also in the city. He can tell you some of the majority maybe doesn't vote, some of them don't own businesses, some of them have family issues. But he considers the fact that his responsibility is to address the best he can to keep things affordable as possible and he thinks everyone around that table has done that and they

all have had it affect our personal lives to some degree since they have been working together. So when he says it is a simple decision for him, it is a very simple decision. There is no way he can in good conscience support passing on or support any utility tax of any percent let alone this 3% on anything that is listed that could happen. He can't do it. He is proud to say he can't do it. It causes some problems and he predicts their will be columns criticizing him, maybe not so much them, letters to the editor, speak-outs but that's fine. The problem becomes they all represent with the school district the same constituency. The real problem he has is it seems that some of them care about that same constituency more than others because he really believes that this table, and he has no idea how they are all going to vote, but he is hopeful that a majority of them support the fact that they can't support this utility tax and then there are other people that think it's a good thing or they are going to do some research and find out. In essence he thinks they have listened to a lot of people since this thing has been discussed. He walked down to Park Avenue before the meeting and he happened to just check on the construction and he has been doing that since it started, two elderly couples just happened to see him and he knows them very well one is a state trooper, one is a retired Municipal Lighting Department worker and one is a retired teacher and all 4 of them were vehemently against this tax, just very aggressively against it and he is sure there are people out there that agree with them but he can tell you an overwhelming majority of the people that he has had contact with since this was reported by **Mr. Bartlett** are against this thing. So he has to have a responsibility not only to agree with that, because he does agree with it anyway, but he also feels they have a responsibility as a **Council** to bring this forward, whether it was an invitation by Fred Wachtmeister or not, to do it anyway and he is glad they did. He isn't sure how anyone is going to vote but he can tell you he can't support this and he hopes that their message, if it is a majority, **Patty Bentley** takes back and shares with the school district board and because he thinks it is important that they let them know how they feel.

Councilor Carpenter hopes that a lot of people show up to the meeting to voice their opinion in support or oppose the utility tax to the school board

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a 2010 Budget Amendment to the General, Recreation, Parking Lot, Water, Sewer, and Library Operating Fund budgets to provide appropriations to fund the October 15, 2010 PETNY Worker's Compensation settlement.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Valentine

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves two Police Officers to attend the “Technical Crash Management Course” from October 18 – 22, 2010 in Albany, NY. The cost will not exceed \$1,253.00 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture Fund (Treasury funds).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to attend the “MEUA Engineering Workshop” from November 2 – 4, 2010 in East Syracuse, NY at an estimated cost of \$410.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Resolution from the City Chamberlain and the City Assessor to write-off duplicate property tax billings in the amount of \$799.44 plus accumulated interest according to the listing submitted for the record of this meeting. These property taxes were assessed in error to the sub-lessees of an underground right-of-way for access to a shared fiber-optic telecommunication network.
2. Request from Kevin Farrington, City Engineer for he and David Brown to attend the “New York State GIS Conference” from October 25 – 26, 2010 in Saratoga Springs, NY at an estimated cost of \$640.

10. NEW BUSINESS: None

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Patty Bentley 18 Sanborn Avenue stated she will take the message back to the school board she certainly knows there have been a number of comments. The comments she made prior to this were based on the fact that it is unfortunate that it’s become she thinks very politicized. The intent of this as it has been for the last

8 times the utility tax has been discussed is that it is a tax that is imposed and used in at least 40 municipalities in New York State. They were asked to look at it and she believes when Mr. Bartlett reported it is was something that had come up at the school board meeting and they said they would impanel a hearing. Several members of the board were prima facie opposed to it and she thinks that the dialogue between the **City Council** and the school board should continue. She thanked **Councilor Carpenter** for at least noting that there is an effort and she thinks it is extraordinarily important. They do represent the same constituents, the same home owners who are getting taxed not only for property taxes for the City and for school taxes. She did want to acknowledge that the tax rates have gone up considerably she thinks the Imperial Dam refurbishment she hopes will be a significant asset to the City. The tax rolls also went up over the last year because the school board, which funded 60% of the suit, increased the amount coming in to the rolls in assessed value of this City by objecting and appealing the findings for Pine Haven, Lake Forest and the Vilas home. Not that she wants to take money out of fixed income pockets but the fact remained that we were up held, our position was this is legitimately not being taxed when it should be taxed. She thinks that is the kind of cooperation and communication that must continue between the **Common Council** and the school board and we should find ways to do that rather than taking opposition view points which doesn't move anything much further. She thinks certainly they have heard this and she expects it will generate some additional interest in the hearing November 30th. She did want to point out simply because she does take a little bit of exception to compare the tax rate of \$10.20 per 1000 in the City to the \$20.96 per 1000 in the school district. It is not simply an apple to an apple she would also remind them the City has other sources of revenue including the fees they charge for electricity, sewage, water, garbage and the sales tax income as well as other revenue streams that contribute to keeping that tax rate down. She personally appreciates the work this **Council** has done; she knows it has been hard that anytime you have to look at cutting a service, delaying an improvement or certainly terminating an individual it is difficult, they have done that. She did want to point out it isn't simply a comparison of one tax rate to another there are other sources of funding that the City has. And she wants to thank them for their consideration and the opportunity to talk and for having this vote on a night that she didn't have a school board meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Valentine
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:14 pm